

Furthermore, despite her long hours of work for the agency, Regan co-founded a nonprofit that focuses on improving the lives of children affected by HIV-AIDS and poverty in Africa. She visits Zambia annually and has raised thousands of dollars to benefit the schools there.

Outstanding government employees such as Dr. Regan Murray are making a difference each and every day. So many of them also serve as volunteers in their communities and around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Regan Murray and all those working at the Environmental Protection Agency for their hard work and dedicated service on behalf of the American people. They are all truly great Federal employees.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TURKEY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, this past weekend, 12 Turkish soldiers were killed by PKK terrorists. Yesterday, another four Turkish soldiers were killed, as well as the innocent daughter of an officer, and according to the Turkish government, the PKK is responsible for this massacre as well.

Our condolences go out to these families and all the people of Turkey. Terrorist assaults are unacceptable wherever they occur in the world, and we all have to fight together against them.

We are reminded of our common bond with Turkey, and our common fight against terrorists and terror wherever we see it. Turkey has been an important ally, a democracy in a troubled region and a force for stability.

We must keep in mind that Turkey has been a member of NATO since 1952. They established a strategic and military alliance with Israel in the 1990s, and now have boots on the ground in Afghanistan helping us there.

For many years, the bond between the United States and Turkey has been strong and unchallengeable. Despite this progress, Turkey's current prime minister is jeopardizing and risking much of what his country and the Turkish people have accomplished over recent decades. Moving Turkey away from the middle and toward a dangerous extremist path cannot possibly be a good course of action for that country.

Prime Minister Erdogan used his vote on the U.N. Security Council to oppose sanctions on Iran. He calls Iranian President Ahmadinejad a friend, while turning away from those in Iran who would promote peace. He has nor-

malized relations with Syria, despite its support for the terrorist groups Hezbollah and Hamas.

In fact, I was on a visit recently—last year—to Turkey with two other Senators. We joined the prime minister in his conference room. Upon sitting down, he forcefully declared that “Hamas is not a terrorist organization.” That is a deeply troubling statement from a member of NATO.

Hamas has refused to accept the existence of Israel, a country of more than 7 million people, while declaring threats to destroy the country. It has unleashed more than 10,000 rockets on Israeli neighborhoods and threatens to send thousands more.

This group has sent suicide bombers into Israel, who have killed not only Israelis, but Americans also, including people from my State of New Jersey.

What puzzles me most of all is how Prime Minister Erdogan refuses to condemn Hamas for a terrorist organization for engaging in the same murderous activity as the PKK. It doesn't add up. It challenges Turkey's standing across the world.

The PKK is so dangerous to the Turkish people, their economy, and their national well-being for the very same reasons that Hamas is dangerous to Israel.

The prime minister's alignment with the most radical forces in the Middle East is a serious concern for all of us. But the situation is not irreversible.

I hope that Prime Minister Erdogan changes course, rejects his drift toward extremism, and embraces the moderate forces within Turkey and across the Middle East. If Turkey wants the standing and respect that a balanced democratic nation earns, it has to treat all peaceful nations the same and terrorists with disdain.

I was in Turkey some years ago when the PKK—primarily of Kurdish population—was thought to be a concern, but not particularly active in the terrorism that I saw, anyway, in my visit there. But we saw them then putting people in prison because they differed in opinion with the government. I thought that was a sign of censorship that didn't fit the picture, but they knew that in the Kurdish community, there was a lot of resistance to what the Turkish Government was doing.

Now we see that Turkey has 30,000 troops chasing the PKK on the border near Iraq. So it is hard to understand how a nation that has the power that Turkey could have in the Middle East—and in the world generally—is falling prey to identifying one group as friendly and another group—or one group as terrorists in one place and a good-meaning organization in another. Hamas is a terrorist organization, and everybody knows it. They have overtaken the Gaza, and they control all the flow of everything there—arms, et cetera—and maintain an arsenal with which to attack Israel.

We have to let Turkey know this is not a good way for us to continue an

alliance. We have an interest in balance and respect for the countries in the Middle East. So I hope we can continue a long-time, close relationship with this great country and long-time friend.

I close with a wish that in Turkey they will take a second look at the policies they are currently condoning and join with us in the fight against terrorism.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ASIAN CARP FOUND IN LAKE CALUMET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today with a very urgent and critical situation from my home State and the home State of the Presiding Officer and for our Great Lakes in general.

We are just finding out today that a commercial fisherman, contracted by the government to do routine sampling of areas leading into the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan, caught a 34-inch, 20-pound Asian carp in Lake Calumet, approximately 6 miles downstream from Lake Michigan, past the barriers, and on its way to Lake Michigan. This is the first Asian carp found past the electric barriers. It represents a very serious risk to the Great Lakes' ecosystem and, frankly, to our way of life in the Great Lakes region. These fish are huge, and they are able to invade the Great Lakes. They could easily destroy our \$7 billion fishing industry and our \$16 billion recreational boating industry. Invasive species in the Great Lakes have already contributed to significant declines in fish populations. The Asian carp could completely unwind the food chain, with devastating effects for our existing fish populations. We heard in testimony before my Subcommittee on Water and Power that these fish, which can get up to 90 or 100 pounds, effectively have no stomach. They eat all the time. They eat up everything in the food chain, leaving other fish to die throughout the Great Lakes. It is extremely serious.

We have been working on this issue for a number of years with electric fencing and most recently poisoning a part of the waters in the Chicago channels to determine whether there are any of these Asian carp that have come up the Mississippi River and into the Illinois River. At the time, they didn't find anything. Unfortunately, today they did, and it was well past the electric barriers and fences for the first time.

Let me share with you one story from a few years ago that reflects what